



## PRESS RELEASE

MAYOR'S OFFICE • Mike Duggan, Mayor

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### **Mayor urges Detroiters to claim Earned Income Tax Credit as City kicks off its annual campaign**

- Last year's campaign helped Detroiters receive an average of \$3,430 in tax refunds
- Hundreds of volunteers to staff free tax preparation and Drop & Go locations
- Full information available at [www.claimyourrefund.com](http://www.claimyourrefund.com)

The City of Detroit is working with a number of organizations to continue its annual push to encourage working Detroiters to claim their Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) and increase the size of their tax refund.

Mayor Mike Duggan, joined by Accounting Aid Society, United Way for Southeastern Michigan, Wayne Metropolitan Community Action Agency and Detroit at Work, kicked off the 2020 campaign at Durfee Innovation Society today and outlined efforts to urge residents to claim their credit.

As a result of the annual campaign, Detroiters have claimed \$56 million more in EITC refunds each year on average. Prior to 2017, EITC-eligible Detroiters left an estimated \$80 million of potential tax refunds unclaimed each year.

"For many working Detroiters, the Earned Income Tax Credit is their only income tax break, so we want to make sure everyone who is eligible takes advantage of it," said Mayor Duggan.

"Thanks to our great partners, millions of dollars that previously were unclaimed have flowed into the pockets of Detroiters since we started this campaign four years ago."

#### **Who is eligible to claim the EITC?**

The EITC is available to working families and individuals who meet certain income requirements. The amount of the refund depends on income, filing status and number of qualifying children claimed on their returns.

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For example, a single individual with no children who works and makes less than \$15,000 could get back as much as \$529. A married couple with three or more children who file a joint return, with a combined income of less than \$55,952 could receive the maximum EITC of \$6,557.

Here are some of the resources being made available as part of the EITC campaign:

- Accounting Aid Society and Wayne Metro have trained more than 500 individuals to staff 21 free tax preparation sites
- 9 virtual tax preparation intake sites (also called Drop and Go sites), where residents can drop off their tax information and have their tax returns prepared
- 30 billboards posted across Detroit, provided by Outfront Media and Bloomberg Associates at no cost to the City
- 288 ads on DDOT buses

The City's partners are enthusiastic about the work they do to help Detroit residents.

"Our tax preparation volunteers tell us this is the most meaningful work they do," said Kathleen Hatke Aro, President of Accounting Aid Society. "The EITC is the single most important tax benefit for working people and their families, who may get money back even if they do not owe any tax. This initiative transforms lives by financially empowering Detroiters."

"EITC has the power to change tax time from a burden into an opportunity. First, it's a free service, so families aren't paying fees out of pocket," said Karen MacDonald, Executive Director of Community and Economic Development for Wayne Metropolitan Community Action Agency. "Second, our preparers are IRS-certified professionals who are well versed on tax code and credits which means low income families will receive the maximum benefit they are entitled to. The bigger the return, the greater the surplus of cash and opportunity to plan, save, and build financial security."

"The Earned Income Tax Credit directly helps thousands of residents across the city. This program is proven and we are proud to partner with the City, Wayne Metro and the Accounting Aid Society," says Tonya Adair, Chief Impact Officer for United Way for Southeastern Michigan. "The thousands of dollars families receive on average help them create a more stable financial foundation where children can thrive in our community. We are committed to continuing our referral efforts, via 2-1-1, as well as funding for free tax prep services to ensure more eligible residents have opportunities to recoup more of what they earn."

The City also acknowledged Detroit at Work for its contribution and support of the initiative.

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### **How to apply**

Detroiters looking for more information on how to take advantage of the EITC can visit [www.claimyourrefund.com](http://www.claimyourrefund.com) or call 211. To receive the credit, individuals must file a tax return, even if they don't owe any taxes or are otherwise not required to file.

In addition, individuals are encouraged to file their own taxes for free by using simple online software. Turbo Tax Free File **is** available to anyone with an income up to \$36,000 **or** up to \$69,000 for active military or anyone who qualifies for the Earned Income Tax Credit. The [TurboTax Free File](#) program includes your federal, state and local tax returns and can handle self-employed tax returns.

United Way's MyFreeTaxes program is available for free to anyone at any income as long as the return is simple (no self-employment, investment income or capital gains).

The MyFreeTaxes program does not include local taxes. Individuals using MyFreeTaxes will need to file the City of Detroit tax return separately. Resources and information are available on how to file your [City of Detroit income tax](#).

Individuals with income up to \$56,000 qualify for free, in-person tax preparation services at the locations listed below.

### **Free Tax Preparation Sites**

At these sites, individuals make appointments to meet with a volunteer to complete their tax return. To make an appointment, call the number listed for the location.

#### **West Side Locations**

Adams Butzel Recreation Center, 10500 Lyndon Street, Detroit 48238 | 313-556-1920

Brilliant Detroit – Springwells, 9104 Rathbone Street, Detroit 48209 | 313-388-9799

Clemente Recreation Center, 2631 Bagley Street, Detroit 48216 | 313-388-9799

Crowell Community Center, 16630 Lahser Road, Detroit 48219 | 313-388-9799

Detroit Public Library – Chaney Branch, 16101 Grand River, Detroit 48227 | 313-388-9799

Detroit Public Library – Edison Branch, 18400 Joy Rd., Detroit 48223 | 313-388-9799

## **EITC CAMPAIGN 2020 LAUNCH – 4**

Focus: HOPE, 1300 Oakman Blvd., Detroit 48238 | 313-556-1920

Northwest Financial Hub, 7800 W. Outer Drive, Detroit 48235 | 313-556-1920

Northwest Activities Center, 18100 Meyers, Detroit 48235 | 313-388-9799

Southwest Financial Hub, 2826 Bagley, Detroit 48216 | 313-556-1920

University of Detroit-Mercy, 4001 W. McNichols, Detroit 48221 | 313-556-1920

### **Central Locations**

Detroit Public Library - Duffield Branch, 2507 W. Grand Blvd., Detroit 48208 | 313-481-1712

Detroit Public Library – Main Branch, 5201 Woodward Ave., Detroit 48202 | 313-556-1920

Life Remodeled – Durfee Innovation Society, 2470 Collingwood Street, Detroit 48206  
313-388-9799

Kemeny Recreation Center, 2260 S. Fort Street, Detroit 48217 | 313-388-9799

Wayne Metro - Lakeshore Building, 7310 Woodward Ave., Detroit 48202 | 313-388-9799

### **East Side Locations**

Detroit Public Library – Wilder Branch, 7140 E. Seven Mile Road, Detroit 48234 | 313-388-9799

Fisher Magnet Upper Academy, 15491 Maddelein Street, Detroit 48205 | 313-556-1920

Heilmann Recreation Center, 19601 Crusade St., Detroit 48205 | 313-388-9799

Samaritan Center, 5555 Conner Street, Detroit 48213 | 313-388-9799

U-SNAP-BAC, 14901 E. Warren Ave., Detroit 48224 | 313-556-1920

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### Drop & Go Partners and Locations

At these locations, Individuals can leave their documentation and return to pick up the completed return. **These locations are by appointment only.** Call 211 or (313) 556-2920 to schedule an appointment.

- ACCESS - Detroit Career Center, 16427 W. Warren, 48228
- Eastside Community Network, 4401 Conner, 48215
- Focus: HOPE, 1200 Oakman Boulevard, 48238
- Goodwill Detroit, 3111 Grand River Avenue, 48208
- Matrix Human Services, 13560 E McNichols Road, 48205
- Samaritan Center SER Metro, 5555 Conner, 48213
- SER Metro, 9301 Michigan Avenue, 48210
- Northwest Activities Center SER Metro, 18100 Meyers Road, 48235
- U-SNAP-BAC, 14901 East Warren Avenue, 48224